



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 6

June 2023

RADIO FIESTA 2023

San Antonio Radio Club
Announcing
Radio Fiستا 2023
Friday, June 16 and Saturday June 17, 2023
Friday 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. Vendor & Flea market setup
Friday 1 - 5 p.m. Open to public
Sat 7 - 8 a.m. Vendor & Flea market setup
Sat 8:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Open to public
Now 2 Days
Schertz Civic Center -
1400 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX

Featuring:
✓ FREE Parking
✓ Premier Vendors
✓ Many door prizes
✓ FCC Exams (Saturday)
1:30-4:00 p.m. ARRL VE Testing
Please PRE-REGISTER for the test session at hamtest@gmail.com.

Admission:
Buyers—\$15 for 2 day pass on line or \$20 at the door
Students with School ID—\$10 Children under 12 & Scouts, Military and First Responders in Uniform get in FREE.
Tailgating—FREE with admission
Indoor Space & Table Rental—\$20-30 per space with table by location
1 FREE admission included with each Table Rental

Reserve and purchase tables & admission on-line:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sarc-radio-fiستا-2023-tickets-392607679137>

Volunteers are still needed. Your service gets you free admission to Radio Fiesta. Contact help Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI Radio Fiesta 2023 Chairperson

There will be a small space on a club table for members to sell items. Think about a foot and a half square.

A few tables are left if there are late-comers.

Pre-register at hamtest@gmail.com for the Saturday 1:30 VE test session

The next meeting, June 8, 2023, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 . Likely topic: Radio Fiesta and Field Day

Balloon Project (Bill Craft, KD2HIQ)



Travis Few, N9EOD headed up the team to prepare, and launch the balloon. Light winds, a cool temperature, and plenty of enthusiasm made for a successful balloon launch at [Kitty Hawk Flying field](#) in Schertz, TX.

Michael Kappas, KI5ZRE had The Civil Air Patrol Cadets help Travis launch the balloon with its APRS & Camera payload. It was a learning experience for the Cadets and their leaders.

After clearing with local airport traffic, (ultralights, powered parachutes) and filing the NOTAMS and clearing with air traffic control at San Antonio, the balloon was successfully launched at 0800.

(Continued on Page 6)

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
6	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		June 2023
TO							

Hello South Texas,

June 2023 is a busy time for the San Antonio Radio Club. To kick it off, I know I will see many of our members at the BSides San Antonio computer security conference, at St. Mary's University, Saturday, June 10. <https://www.bsidesatx.com/>

June 16 - 17 Radio Fiesta in Schertz. We could use more volunteers so please sign up! Come on out to shop, visit old friends, and make some new ones. Testing will be available, so move up to a General or Extra Class license. <https://w5sc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-Flyer-rev-8-1.pdf>

June 24 - 25 Field Day 2023. Last year's Field Day was fantastic and this year is looking even better! We can always use more operators so come on out.

We are open to any and everyone working the radios. Would you like to learn FT8, we are here to help. Maybe join the Safety Team, pull up an antenna, take care of a generator, or as I said before, work the radios.

BYOR and BYOA.

If you would like to bring your own radio or bring your own antenna, please let Jon April know and we will make a spot for your gear!

Radio propagation improves more every day. Solar Cycle 25 began in December 2019, and it is expected to reach its peak around mid-2025. These next few years will be fun for everyone on HF. This reminds me that this is a great time to upgrade to a General Class license.

This is the most exciting month on the calendar and see you at the club meeting on June 8th.

73

Paul, N5IUT, President

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

Meeting Minutes
7:00 p. m., May 11th 2023
Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm//Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation – Kelley Randall, WB5MZZ – Crimping & Soldering – Materials were published to the club's Groups.io website.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no changes, additions, or deletions, minutes were approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No report.

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April KI5CSK – Amazon Smile program was ended by Amazon. Recent and upcoming expenditures reviewed, account balances listed.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – No report.

Education and Training – David Finell, N7LRY – No report.

Emergency Communications – JC Smith N5RXS – No report. Announcement related to RACES's purpose, request for volunteers.

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – As of DATE: 5/11/23

Paid 137	New Members for 2023		
Free / Mil 7	First	Last	Call
Family Members 19	Wyatt	Wright	N5ACW
ARRL Members 97	Rafael	Bouet	W5RBC
	William	Paine	N5WLM
	Steve	Souther	KF4ZMA
	Ken	Armstrong	KI5ZYQ
Total membership 162			

POTA - Jon April KI5CSK – First event was on April 15, 2023 at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Gratitude expressed to those who were instrumental in the event's success, summarized the experience. 136 contacts, 5 countries, 18 CW, 16 phone, 102 FT8.

Field Day – Jon April KI5CSK – Fourth full weekend in June. Volunteers needed for a variety of tasks, including two for overnight operation and security. If you wish to bring your own antenna, contact Jon to be added to the antenna plan. More updates to come in the near future.

Fox Hunt – Announcement by Harold Swartz. Saturday, 20 May, 0900 – 1200 at OP Schnabel Park. Details at Groups.io.

Finance and Review – No report.

JOTA – John Douglas W5NZK – No report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – No report.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Update provided, door prizes described. Announcement made by Lloyd Swartz: Volunteer sign-up sheet posted to club website. Volunteers receive one free entrance to the event and a ticket for the door prizes.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – VEs needed for the testing scheduled for Radio Fiesta weekend on Saturday, June 17, 2023. Also need volunteers for testing to be conducted during Field Day. April testing results provided.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter sent to membership on 5/10/23.

Webmaster – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ –

1. Web Site-
 - a. Posted newsletter.
 - b. Added support page.
 - c. Updated Radio Fiesta pages, including volunteer sign-up sheet.
 - d. Fox Hunt page added.
 - e. POTA page added.
2. Groups.io
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp - Meeting notice, Zoom, Radio Fiesta Notice
4. Twitter
5. Facebook - Meeting notice

6. ShopRaise – Activated account to replace the Amazon Smile fundraising. The club will receive a percentage of sales when used.

Silent Key Committee –Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Update on items available.

Monthly Activities – Travis Few, N9EOD – No report. Summary of balloon launch event from April 20, 2023. Details are available in the May Newsletter. May 27, 2023 is the next balloon launch event.

Executive – No report

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No report.

Scholarship Committee: Jon April – Read thank you letter received from someone who was awarded one of our scholarships.

Report from Harold Fleischer: Pete Carpenter arrived at Belton about 3:30 p. m., Friday, 14 April 2023 and picked up the table that Larry Stewart had given us. I arrived 10-15 minutes later. We sold 12 tickets Friday afternoon (4 - Pete and 8 -me). Some of my sales were by credit card machine.

Everyone was on site on or about 8:00 a. m., Saturday, Rodney and Mary sold several hundred dollars of SK items including both of the radios that we did not sell in Houston and had to haul back to Schertz.

We sold 13 more tickets on Saturday for a total of 25 (6 - Pete, 4- Rodney, and 15 - me.) I turned in \$375 in cash. The other \$250 was done by the credit card machine. The grand total for tickets was \$625. Jon was right to tell me to take the credit card machine. It made a difference.

I had 400 1/4 sheet flyers made, and it looks like we handed out 50-70 so hopefully this will help Radio Fiesta attendance.

All in all, it worked out well for Radio Fiesta publicity, SK sales, and the Bob Rodriguez raffle ticket sales.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) - None

New Business – None

Announcements:

- Jimmy Neff offered some equipment for free.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:55 PM

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Amateur Radio "Field Day" June 24 – 25 Demonstrates Science, Skill, and Service

San Antonio, Texas, [Date]—Members of the San Antonio Radio Club (SARC) will be participating in the national Amateur Radio Field Day exercise, June 24 – 25 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twentieth year. Such long term supportive arrangements as between the City of Shavano Park and SARC are not unusual. Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio. This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. We will put you on the air!

Check with Jon April, KI5CSK for details.

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Balloon Project (Continued from Page 1)

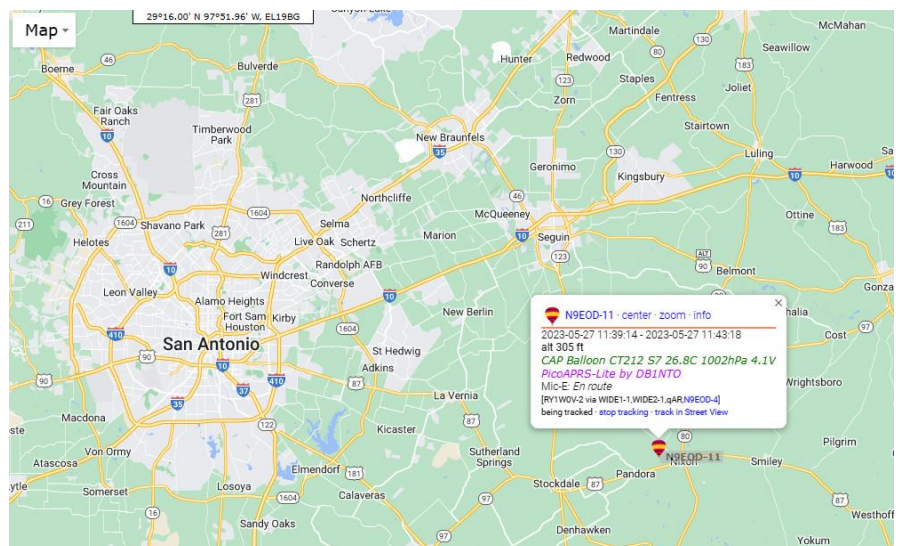
The balloon slowly descended via parachute to a field in Nixon, TX, after the balloon burst at over 100,000 feet. The payload box is suspended between trees requiring some effort to retrieve intact. The contents survived the journey to be used again on another flight.

The APRS information from the payload transmitter showed the landing place in Nixon, Tx after an approximate 3 1/2 hr flight.



Our first Balloon launch was April 20 at 0700. The launch site was the Old Kingsbury Aerodrome in Kingsbury, TX. If you want to track the balloon on APRS, the callsign will be N9EOD-11. The chase vehicles and balloon will be tracked here as well <https://sar-topo.com/m/CAEGK>.

Video's of the launch are up on youtube @ [SARC/CAP Balloon Launch 20 April 2023](#)



Michael Kappas, KI5ZRE reached out to the San Antonio Radio Club to help The Civil Air Patrol with launching a high altitude balloon as part of an educational activity for our Cadets....

The first launch was a “proof of concept” event to verify all the equipment and procedures worked as planned. Travis Few, N9EOD headed up the team to prepare, and launch the balloon. Many things had to be taken in account, airspace, Notice to Airmen filed, and weather along with a packing the

telemetry equipment and cameras into a small lightweight Styrofoam box. It is not just take a balloon out and launch as we all soon found out.

“...”



Volunteer Examiners at Work



There will be a VE session at Radio Fiesta, Saturday, June 17 at 1:30 pm Please PRE-REGISTER for the test session at hamtest@gmail.com

Bennie Martinez, NU5P

“...”

A Tape Measure Yagi for Fox Hunting

Bill Craft and Rickard Garcia, KI5ZZE built tape measure Yagi’s using the plans Travis Few, N9EOD published. We were psyched to test them out on fox hunt, but we were rained out.

Here’s the reference Travis referenced:

From Michael Martins: The 2 Meter band tape measure beam antenna is a 3 element Yagi with about 7.2 db of forward gain. This lightweight antenna is perfect to use for fox hunts or as a portable directional antenna for public service events.

There are plenty of plans online to build your own tape measure antenna, but no good step by step video that takes you through the process. So with that, watch the video and go ahead and build your own tape measure yagi.

Here’s the link:

[Build it: 2 meter Tape Measure Yagi Beam Antenna - KB9VBR Antennas \(jpole-antenna.com\)](http://jpole-antenna.com)



Michael Martins KB9VBR and the antenna

RF Exposure Rules

On May 3, 2021, new FCC rules governing RF exposure evaluations went into effect. While the exposure limits were not changed, the requirement to conduct an evaluation was made more broadly applicable to amateur licensees. A 2-year transition period was implemented to allow existing amateur licensees to conduct evaluations and make any changes necessary to ensure that their station complies with the exposure rules. **On May 3, 2023, the transition period ended. All licensees must now conduct evaluations of their current station and reassess compliance when making changes to their stations that would affect exposure going forward.**

The ARRL website features an RF Exposure landing page with resources, such as an RF exposure calculator, the entire RF Safety section from the 100th Edition of the ARRL The Handbook, a video explaining the topic, FAQs about the subject, and more. These tools and resources are available to the public without an ARRL membership or website account

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Radio Fiesta

What is the most important thing that you can do as a member of SARC for Radio Fiesta 2023?

ANS: Sign up on the online work assignment form at the meeting or online(<https://w5sc.org/rf-vol/>) to help Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI Radio Fiesta 2023 Chairperson. You can volunteer for a 2-hour shift, multiple 2-hour shifts, or for the entire period that a job exists. All the help that you as a member can give in any amount will be appreciated. For new members: **This is it, our annual fundraiser event. No prior experience needed; you just need a willingness to help.**

PS. You also get a FREE admission to radio Fiesta, a tee shirt and one door prize raffle ticket.

VOLUNTEER!
VOLUNTEER!
WE NEED YOUR HELP

Cray Lester, K5MUG Memorial Fund

San Antonio Radio Club (S.A.R.C) announces a partnership with ShopRaise, an innovative and simple way to turn your everyday shopping at over 1,000 participating retailers into support for our club's programs.

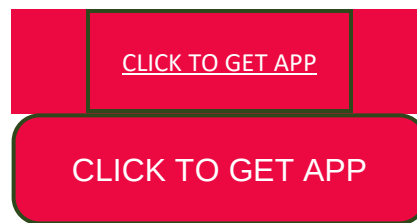
ShopRaise is an easy way to make philanthropy part of your online purchases. From groceries and apparel to technology and travel – a percentage of almost everything you buy goes to support the Cray Lester, K5MUG Memorial Fund*.

The best thing is the program is free, you do not pay any more for the items you buy, and you get access to all the best coupons and deals.

Please help us support and promote our program by doing these 3 simple things:

- Click the link below to get the ShopRaise app
- Use tools in the mobile app to share it with family and friends
- Shop online to support and help us reach our fundraising goals

Thank you for your support!



*** The Cray Lester, K5MUG Memorial Fund donates one or more entry level VHF/UHF handheld radios to be freely raffled off to newly licensed hams at San Antonio Radio Club license testing sessions. This is an continuation of the practice started by Cray years ago out of his own pocket. Now that he is gone Silent Key, that tradition will continue through his Memorial Fund.**



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

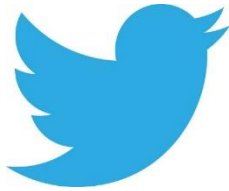
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

SARC Meeting Dates for 2023

January 12, 2023
February 9, 2023
March 9, 2023
April 13, 2023
May 11, 2023
June 8, 2023
July 13, 2023
August 10, 2023
September 14, 2023
October 12, 2023
November 9, 2022
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-233-8863

Radio Fiesta 2023

Radio Fiesta is scheduled for June 16 – 17, 2023 at the Convention Center in Schertz, Texas. It is an ARRL sanctioned Hamfest. Make a date to attend!

JOTA

Club members participated in JOTA and JOTI the largest Scouting event in the world at McGimsey Scout Park with the Alamo Area BSA on Saturday October 16, 2022. Volunteers set up several stations including mobile installations and allowed scouts to contact stations as far away as England.

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
JC Smith N5RXS

License Testing Dates for 2022

Next date: June 17 at 1:30 at Radio Fiesta
Please pre-register at hamtest@gmail.com

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Field Day 2023

Field Day exercise, June 24 – 25 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twentieth year. *Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.*